

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 151556Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4079

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR AG CU

SUBJECT: CASTRO DEPARTS ALGIERS

REF: ALGIERS 0674

1. CUBAN PREMIER CASTRO DEPARTED FOR CONAKRY MARCH 14 AFTER THREE-DAY VISIT TO ALGIERS WHICH WAS CONSTANT FRONT-PAGE NEWS. CASTRO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY VICE PREMIER CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ AND BY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SECRETARY OSMANY CIENFUEGOS. (LATTER ARRIVED HERE SOME DAYS IN ADVANCE OF CASTRO.) DURING HIS STAY, CASTO TOURED VARIOUS ALGERIAN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, HAD TETE-A-TETE WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND MET WITH SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC PRIME MINISTER OULD AHMED LAMINE.

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2. CASTRO'S STATEMENT ON U.S.-CUBAN RELATIONS AND ON

SAHARA TO PRESS AT AIRPORT ON DEPARTURE NOTEWORTHY:

A. U.S.-CUBAN RELATIONS - WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT RECENT U.S. "THREATS" AGAINST CUBA, CASTRO REPLIED, "FIRST OF ALL, FORD IS NOT MY FATHER. POLICY OF THREAT HAS BECOME A HABIT WITH THESE PEOPLE." CASTRO ALSO SAID THAT U.S. INCAPABLE OF TRANSLATING THREATS INTO REALITY, AND COMMENTED THAT CUBA WAS NOT GOING TO "LOSE ANY SLEEP" OVER SUCH THREATS.

B. SAHARA - CASTRO GAVE SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC AND ALGERIANS LITTLE TO CHEER ABOUT. HE DID NOT RAISE SAHARA HIMSELF, AND WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH LAMINE, SAID MERELY THAT SAHRAOUI REVOLUTION WAS ONE WHICH SHOULD EVOKE ADMIRATION OF ANY HONEST REVOLUTIONARY.

3. WITH RESPECT TO ALGERIAN-CUBAN RELATIONS, THIS VISIT, CASTRO'S THIRD HERE IN AS MANY YEARS ACCORDING TO PRESS, STRESSED CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS IN ALL FIELDS BETWEEN ALGERIA AND CUBA AND EMPHASIZED CLOSE ALGERIAN-CUBAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. THERE WAS NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

4. PRESS ANNOUNCED, THAT FOLLOWING HIS STAY IN ALGIERS, CASTRO WOULD ATTEND "MINI SUMMIT OF PROGRESSIVES" IN CONAKRY. OTHER LEADERS PRESENT WILL BE NETO OF ANGOLA AND LUIS CABRAL OF GUINEA BISSAU.

5. COMMENT: CASTRO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN VERY FAR INDEED FROM RECOGNIZING SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC. SOME OBSERVERS HERE EXPECTED CUBA WOULD BE FIRST NON-AFRICAN STATE TO JOIN SEVEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES (GUINEA BISSAU BECAME SEVENTH ON MARCH 12) IN RECOGNIZING SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC. PARKER

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